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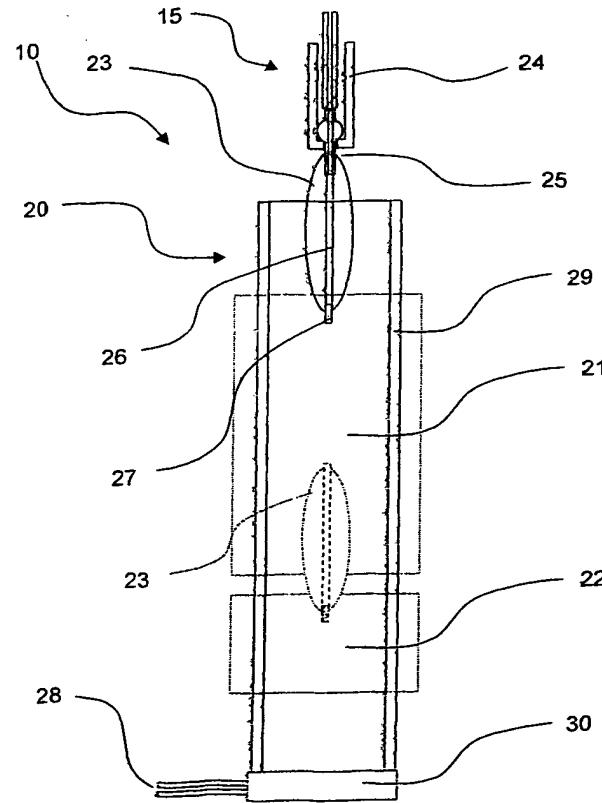
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(57) Abstract: A process for producing a low-attenuation optical fiber comprises producing a soot core preform (23) by chemical deposition on a substrate; removing the substrate from the soot core preform (23), thereby forming a central hole (26) along the soot core preform (23); drying and consolidating the soot core preform (23) in a consolidation furnace (20) to form a glass core preform (23); heating the glass preform (23) in the consolidation furnace (20) over a glass melting temperature to produce a reduction of the diameter of the central hole (26); and stretching the glass core preform (23) to completely close the central hole.

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